



August 9, 2004

Secretary Terry Tamminen
California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Draft Environmental Justice Strategy - SUPPORT

Dear Secretary Tamminen:

The California Environmental Rights Alliance supports the Cal/EPA proposal to adopt an Environmental Justice Strategy to establish an overarching environmental justice vision for your agency and its boards, departments, and office (BDOs). We encourage you to work with your BDOs to finalize and implement the EJ Strategy without delay.

We do, however, seek certain amendments to the EJ Strategy. We have enclosed for your review a mark-up of the draft EJ Strategy with our suggested revisions. In general, we seek a commitment that this EJ Strategy will result in specific measurable objectives bound by deadlines. We also suggest in several places a commitment to address environmental justice needs through the permitting process. The achievement of environmental justice in California will depend upon your ability to revise how Cal/EPA's boards and departments make environmental permit decisions, including improvements to public participation rights and opportunities, the assessment and mitigation of cumulative environmental impacts, and the explicit consideration of possible adverse environmental justice impacts.

Thank you for your commitment to achieving environmental justice and for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Joseph K. Lyou, Ph.D.
Executive Director and
Member of the Cal/EPA Advisory Committee on Environmental Justice

Enclosure: Mark-Up of Draft Environmental Justice Strategy

Cc: Ms. Tam Doduc and Ms. Malinda Hall

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Advisory Board*

Martha Dina Arguello
*Physicians for Social Responsibility
Los Angeles*

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*Southern California Environmental
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Jesse N. Marquez
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Environment*

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Athens Park Concerned Citizens

Denise Ng
*Office of Assemblymember
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California Air Resources Board

Robina Suwol
California Safe Schools

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